







Flames of Desire









Chapter 1 by Deanna Wiseman

"Mickey!" The small dragon with the white wings ran towards his best friend, the two elder dragons watching with a chuckle as the children hugged. "I missed you, so much! Daddy says I'll find my element soon, have you found yours yet?"

Michael shook his head. "Nope! But my papa says I should find mine too." He said hugging him tightly and kissing his cheek laughing happily. "Come on and play with me!" He said dragging him out towards the grass covered hill.

Lucifer ran off with him, jumping and laying down, rolling down the grass covered hill. "Yay!"

Michael rolled down after him his red wings curled around him as he laughed. "Man, I missed you, Luci. It feels like we haven't been together in ages." He said laying next to him and looking at the sky.

Lucifer nodded and lay his head on his friend's shoulder, looking up at the volcano near the edge of the mountains

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Michael lead him toward a cave system he had been exploring. "Maybe we'll run away together and make our own tribe. Just you and me." He suggested as he lead Lucifer deep into the caves. "I've been exploring this cave for a while and it goes deep into the mountain. I think it might even lead to the volcano! I was thinking we might be able to find gold in here and take it back and imagine how proud they'll be of us!" He said as he held Lucifer's hand so they didn't get separated.

Lucifer smiled, "or they'd be angry but happy that we're safe. Maybe we'll even find out elements!" He cheered, looking up at the taller male. "Wouldn't we have to get married then? I wouldn't mind marrying you, you're my best friend!"

Michael blushed. "I wouldn't mind marrying you either. We're a good team. We do everything better together anyway." He agreed. "Do you really think our elements are gonna be hidden in the mountain. From what I heard most others have found their elements just right out in the open." He said thinking about it. He ducked under a rock and they made their way deeper. He made sure to pick up a rock and scratch the wall so they could find their way back out when they were ready. "It's getting warm in here huh?" He asked Lucifer.

Lucifer nodded, "maybe but most people also aren't us. And yeah, it is getting warmer, maybe we're getting closer to the volcano!" He said excitedly although he was getting a bit uncomfortable.

Suddenly Michael lost his footing yelping as he tripped and tumbled down a sharp slope in the dark dragging Lucifer with him since they were holding hands. They fell down some ways until they were right next to a huge lake of lava that was bubbling and steaming. Michael looked over at Lucifer worriedly. "Are you okay? I think I hurt my wing." He said looking at the bent appendage but at the moment the adrenaline was keeping it from hurting too much.

Lucifer nodded, scraped up and bruised but mostly okay. He wouldn't stop clinging to Michael though. "Yeah... The heat in here is making me dizzy. I feel like I'm gonna puke. I'm going to sit

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too close. Something caught his eye at the far end, though. "Luce! I found something. I'm gonna try to grab it." He shouted back at his friend before creeping slowly toward the weird red jewel he could see glowing over some of the lava.

Lucifer looked up, his vision clearing at Michael's yell. "Are you crazy? That's right over the lava and your wing is hurt, you can't fly at all!" He said, going against his body's wishes and running over to his friend.

It was too late the rock under Michael's feet wasn't fully hardened as he reached for the stunning jewel it cracked and he fell into the lava with a scream. It was so painful and overwhelming and the heat seemed to consume his entire being as he sank into the lava sure he was dying.

Lucifer flinched and the heat radiating made him collapse, Michael's situation making him grab his head and sob into his knees. "Micha..."

Michael wasn't sure how long it was when he was able to think again. The pain faded and the heat was no longer overwhelming but had dulled to a soothing comfortable warmth. He couldn't see but he could feel he was still curled up in the lava and slowly stretched out and swam for the surface taking deep gasping breaths as he dragged himself onto the shore his wing healed and the first light of the lava shining from his eyes. "L-Lucifer!" He said crawling over and dragging him back away toward the exit. "I... I don't know what happened! I saw this jewel and... I thought I died! But it doesn't hurt." He admitted blushing deeply realizing his clothes hadn't been as lucky as he was and had burnt away.

Lucifer was panting and heaving his breaths as he buried his face into Michael's chest, ignoring the lack of clothes. "I thought you died and were dead! Don't ever do that again you- you jerk." His lip quivered and he burst into tears.

"I didn't do it on purpose! Oh, Lucifer... Shh, I'm okay! I'm right here. Shh. Come on. Let's go home." He said picking him up and carrying him up back toward the way they came in. It took a

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Michael had tears in his eyes. "I... I... We..." He didn't know how to explain what happened. Michael's father frowned but noticed the glow in his son's eyes. "Just take him with you and go get dressed. You can tell us what happened after you've both calmed down." He said and Michael nodded taking Lucifer with him to his room and sitting him on the bed. "You gotta let go so I can put some clothes on Luci." He said gently.

Lucifer sniffles and after some more gentle coaxing he let Michael get dressed. "I was so scared, Michael. I thought you were dead, my head was pounding from the heat and my eyes were blurry. All I heard was your screams." He gathered the blankets around himself curling up in a tight little ball.

Once Michael was dressed he cuddled him on the bed. "I'm so sorry Lucifer. I don't know what happened. I shouldn't have done that. I just... The jewel... I never saw anything like it. It was like it was calling to me. I had to get it. But I lost it in the lava... I don't know how I survived. It felt like I was melting but then it wasn't so bad... And it healed my wing. Maybe it's magic?" He shook his head. "All that matters is we're both here and okay. We'll never go back there again. I'm here Luce." He promised, pressing a soft kiss to his friend's forehead.

Lucifer nodded and snuggled up to him, "Never ever? Okay... But how about next time we go exploring it's not in a cave at all?" He asked, wrapping his arms around Michael's shoulders hugging him, "We should go talk to daddy."

Michael nodded and carried Lucifer back our to where their fathers were pouring tea for all of them and had some biscuits too. Michael sat down and let Lucifer cuddle him as he told the elder dragons what happened.

Lucifer' father nodded, "a fire elemental. Not uncommon but an alpha fire drake? That's rare." He commented with a nod. Lucifer looked confused. "what's that?"

Michael blinked. "What?" He asked along with Lucifer and his father sighed. "Michael that

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Lucifer nodded, his hands shaking slightly from the adrenaline of his breakdown wearing off. He sipped the tea, sighing. "Daddy, can Michael and his dad come with us to our end of the mountain?" He asked hopefully.

Michael's father looked over at Lucifer's and sighed. "Actually, there's something we have to tell you, boys. We have been talking and we think that with all the new dragons coming and bringing our tribes it might be best if we combine both tribes into one larger one for protection. I am going on a trip to the shadowlands so Michael will be living with your father and you until I return. But we were thinking that the best way to combine the tribes is to have you betrothed to each other... Do either of you have an issue with that idea?" He asked them softly.

Lucifer nodded, "I have an issue!" He called out, something that surprised his father as Lucifer often spoke of one day marrying Michael. He laughed as Lucifer continued, "I don't know what betrothed means." Lucifer's father smiled, "it means that one day you two will get married."

Michael rolled his eyes. "We were planning to get married when we came of age anyway. That way we can always be together. Luce is my best friend. We're the best team." He said hugging Lucifer. Michael's father smiled. "Your mother would be awfully proud of you Michael. You're a lot like her. Now I'm leaving Lucifer's father in charge of both tribes. We've received calls for help from the shadowlands and I decided I would go. Humans are starting to get brave and many dragons are being captured or killed by them. It's too risky to send anyone else. But I promise I'll be home before the first snowfall." He said ruffling Michael's hair. Michael looked worried but nodded. His father was the strongest dragon he knew. He'd be fine. "Okay papa, I love you." He said sipping his tea.

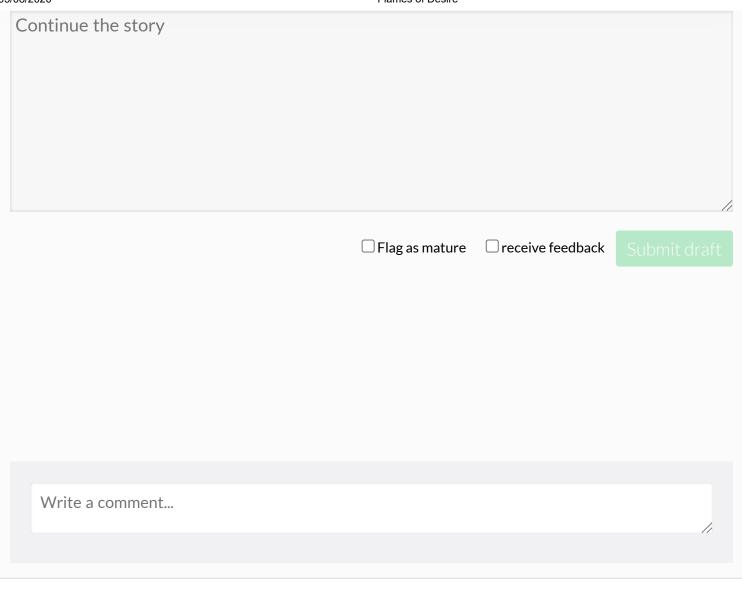
Lucifer nodded and watched as his own father bid his friend farewell. "Bye bye." He said casually, certain that Michael's father would come back. Lucifer snuggled up to Lucifer as they were fed and told to head to sleep, refusing to stay in his room.

Michael didn't mind and they both snuggled together under the blankets in his bed so he could sleep peacefully. He doubted either of them would have gotten any rest if they had been apart

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